



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

May 5, 2010

Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:03 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, David Shane, Neil Pickett, Mike Pettibone, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, James Edwards, Steve Gabet, and Daniel Elsener were present. Vicki Snyder was not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mr. Edwards moved for approval of the minutes. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett said he spoke before the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor in Washington, D.C., on May 4 and discussed Indiana's efforts to reform education. Dr. Bennett's testimony focused on meaningful educator evaluations, developing and retaining excellent teachers and principals, new teacher licensing regulations, Indiana's Growth Model, and ongoing efforts to turnaround the state's consistently low performing schools. Dr. Bennett also discussed Indiana's involvement in the Common Core Standards Initiative.

Dr. Bennett said this is teacher appreciation week, and everyone should think about the great teachers they have had in their lives and the many great teachers in Indiana classrooms today.

Dr. Bennett discussed meetings he had at four of the ten communities on the technical assistance list - in Lake Ridge Calumet, South Bend, Marion, and Gary. The public forums included community members, teachers and administrators, school board members, and union representatives. Dr. Bennett said he made it very clear that he wants those people to run their own schools, but lack of a turnaround plan or lack of adequate improvement will result in a recommendation from him, to the State Board of Education, for the Department of Education (DOE) to take over their schools.

Dr. Bennett said the recent public hearing on giving schools a letter grade drew a large response. He wants it to be clear that he wholeheartedly supports a clear, transparent, and easy to understand system for identifying the success of Indiana schools. The intent is to make our accountability system easy for all communities to understand. Several comments were made criticizing Dr. Bennett and members of the State Board of Education for not being present during the April 30 hearing; however, this is the same process that has been used in years past. Dr. Bennett said he feels the criticism that the Board was not present was misplaced. Dr. Bennett and Board members have been well informed of all information received through the public hearing, and Board members have read all documents that have come in on this matter.

Dr. Bennett discussed Indiana's interest in Common Core Standards and college and career readiness at the high school level.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Dr. Bennett said the Spotlight on Learning recognizes Mt. Vernon High School High Tech Academy. Dr. Bill Riggs, Superintendent, Mt. Vernon Community School Corporation, introduced Tom Shaver, technology education teacher and students David Cochran, Matt Remmel, Austin Gibble, and Jon Lindman.

Mr. Shaver gave background information on the startup funding for the 3-D visualization program and discussed past activities in which students have participated. Using virtual-reality animation, students created a 3-D visualization model for the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization of the proposed light-rail system in Indianapolis. Students also used the VisionDome equipment to create a 3-D visualization of Hancock Regional Health's new hospital wing before it was built.

The students discussed how the virtual-reality animation class has affected their plans for the future.

V. Board Member Comments

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

- A. Jeffery P. Zaring, Chief of Results and Reform, presented a request for approval of LSA Document Number 09-995.

Dr. Bennett read the following motion: Indiana's citizens desire a clear picture of the performance of their schools. The current school improvement and performance category names do not provide a clear picture. Letter grades, which traditionally are used to describe student performance, will provide a clear picture.

With the expectation that the Board and Department immediately will move to:

1. Separate Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determinations from state accountability determinations; and
2. Begin the process to revise the criteria used to place schools in school improvement and performance categories;

I move to adopt LSA Document Number 09-995 effective with the state accountability determinations to be made based on 2010-2011 performance. If the Attorney General determines that a specific effective date is required, this motion should be interpreted as establishing a January 1, 2011, effective date.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the motion read by Dr. Bennett. Mr. Pickett seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine ayes and one no (Mr. Pettibone.)

Dr. Bennett read the second motion: I move that the Board and Department immediately begin to engage stakeholders in a process to:

1. Separate AYP determinations from state accountability determinations; and
2. Revise the criteria used to place schools in school improvement and performance categories.

The Board believes elementary and middle school accountability determinations should be based on the student growth model, including a provision to determine improvement of the lowest performing 25 percent of students in a school. The Board believes that high school accountability determinations should be based on college and career readiness.

The Board establishes the September Board meeting as the target for receiving recommendations from the Department.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the motion read by Dr. Bennett. Mr. Gabet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Public Comments

Public comments were provided by Ranon Myer.

VIII. Discussion

Mr. Zaring said Board members received a list of the presentations planned for the next few months relating to strategic initiatives, and he will be adding to this list after today's Board meeting.

Mr. Pettibone said ISTEP testing has gone very well, and he thanked Wes Bruce and his staff.

Mr. Zaring gave Board members a tentative 2010 AYP and P.L. 221 schedule and discussed the following:

- May 27, ISTEP results will be available
- August 3, IMAST and End of Course Assessments (ECA) passing scores will be established.
- August 23, IMAST and ECA results will be available.
- September 7, preliminary AYP and P.L.221 (appeals begin).
- October 6, final AYP and P.L. 221 for elementary and middle schools.
- November 3, final AYP and P.L. 221 for high schools.
- Choice for first semester based on 2009-2010 school improvement status (only way schools can provide notice; parents can make meaningful choices; school corporations can adjust staffing and transportation).
- Additional choice option extended to schools that enter school improvement.
- AYP targets remain as originally established for 2009-2010, with new trajectory.
- P.L. 221 targets increase per rule.
- Graduation targets change, pursuant to federal rule, with new 90 percent goal. Schools with lowest graduation rates must increase by five percentage points (median increase for 2009 was 3.5 percentage points).

Mr. Zaring gave Board members a copy of the draft rule that provides for funding the interventions the Board may implement following the additional years in the lowest school improvement and performance category. Board members were asked to give Mr. Zaring any comments they might have regarding the draft.

Dr. Stacey Hughes, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning, Anna Shults, and John Wolf, Literacy Consultants, discussed Read On, Indiana! and the Grade 3 Reading Plan.

Dr. Hughes gave back ground information on Indiana's Plan to ensure student literacy by the end of 3rd Grade. In March 2010 the General Assembly passed House Bill 1367, to ensure students read proficiently before moving on to 4th grade. Researchers and educators have noted, prior to 3rd grade students are primarily "learning to read", however, beginning in 4th grade, students must be able to "read to learn." The new law requires the Indiana Department of Education to "develop a plan to improve reading skills of students and implement appropriate remediation techniques" up to and including retention after 3rd grade.

Ms. Shultz and Mr. Wolf discussed the state's Reading Framework and newly required elementary Reading Plans.

Indiana is currently developing a Reading Framework for grades K-6. The framework is being developed utilizing scientifically-based reading research by the Consortium on Reading Excellence (CORE) with guidance from the Indiana Reading Advisory Council. They are under contract with the Department to have the framework completed this spring. The expectation is to have the Reading Framework available to all schools by the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

Board members discussed the Reading Plans, which all school corporations will be required to submit, to implement research-based reading instruction for each of their elementary schools. In accordance with the new state law, corporations receiving state remediation funds must use those funds to make the focus on early reading skills and remediation a priority. Obtaining DOE approval for each Reading Plan will be a prerequisite for the corporation to receive state remediation funds.

Board members voiced concerns that the Department should develop a Reading Plan model, but not mandate it, and eliminate the requirement for each corporation to submit "another plan" to DOE.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, A]

Mr. Pettibone moved for approval of the consent agenda item. Mr. Elsener seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval to accept applications for Common School Fund loans.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval. Mr. Pettibone seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer, presented a request for approval of the Remediation and Preventative Remediation Grant distribution.

Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed with nine ayes and one no (Mr. Pickett).

- C. Pete Miller, GEFP Deputy Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented a request for determination of expenditure categories under IC 20-42.5-3.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of special education child counts from the April 1, 2010, collection.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Zaring reminded Board members that August Board meeting will be held on August 3, 1 p.m.

Mrs. Blacketor moved for adjournment. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.